

Introduced by Senator Alquist

January 31, 2006

An act to add Chapter 10.5 (commencing with Section 61000) to Part 33 of the Education Code, relating to pupils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1221, as introduced, Alquist. Education: California High School Exit Examination: graduation rates: ethnicity and English language learner status.

(1) Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, with the approval of the State Board of Education, to develop a high school exit examination in English language arts and mathematics in accordance with state academic content standards. Existing law requires, commencing with the 2003–04 school year and each school year thereafter, each pupil completing grade 12 to successfully pass the exit examination as a condition of graduation from high school.

This bill would require a school district that maintains a high school to annually report for grades 10 to 12, inclusive, the percentage of pupils who pass the California High School Exit Examination and the percentage of pupils who fail that examination, aggregated by grade level, high school, ethnicity, and English language learner status, as specified, to the State Department of Education. The bill would also require a school district to report the grade level, whether kindergarten or grades 1 to 12, inclusive, in which an English language learner, as specified, entered the California educational system.

(2) Existing law requires the department to compile an attrition rate, in addition to the dropout rate the department compiles pursuant to the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, for high school pupils according to a specified formula.

This bill would require a school district that maintains a high school to annually report for grades 9 to 12, inclusive, the percentage of pupils who dropout, aggregated by grade level, high school, ethnicity and English language learner status, as specified, to the State Department of Education. The bill would define “dropout” for purposes of this act.

By imposing additional duties on a school district, the bill would create a state-mandated local program.

(3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 10.5 (commencing with Section 61000) is added to Part 33 of the Education Code, to read:

CHAPTER 10.5. PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CALIFORNIA
PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT

61000. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature that pupil information relating to the California High School Exit Examination and dropout rates be publicly available.

(b) It is further the intent of the Legislature that the pupil information identified in subdivision (a) be aggregated by ethnicity and English language learner status.

61001. A school district maintaining a high school shall annually report to the State Department of Education the percentage of pupils who pass and the percentage of pupils who fail the High School Exit Examination required by Section 60851, aggregated by grade level and high school, for grades 10 to 12, inclusive, as follows:

(a) The percentage of pupils who pass the exit examination.

(1) The ethnicity of pupils identified pursuant to this subdivision.

(2) (A) The percentage of pupils identified pursuant to this subdivision who are English language learners as defined by subdivision (a) of Section 306.

(B) The grade level, whether kindergarten or grades 1 to 12, inclusive, at which the pupils identified pursuant to subparagraph (A) first entered the California educational system.

(b) The percentage of pupils who fail the exit examination.

(1) The ethnicity of pupils identified pursuant to this subdivision.

(2) (A) The percentage of pupils identified pursuant to this subdivision who are English language learners as defined by subdivision (a) of Section 306.

(B) The grade level, whether kindergarten or grades 1 to 12, inclusive, at which the pupils identified pursuant to subparagraph (A) first entered the California educational system.

61002. (a) A school district maintaining a high school shall annually report to the department the percentage of pupils who dropout, aggregated by grade level and high school, for grades 9 to 12, inclusive, as follows:

(1) The ethnicity of pupils identified pursuant to this subdivision.

(2) The percentage of pupils identified pursuant to this subdivision who are English language learners.

(b) For purposes of this section “dropout” means, a pupil who:

(1) Was enrolled in high school during the current year or the previous summer recess.

(2) Left the educational system during the current school year or the previous summer recess.

(3) Has not graduated from high school.

(4) A pupil who meets any of the following conditions shall not be counted as a dropout pursuant to subdivision (a):

(A) Death.

(B) Temporary absence due to suspension or a school excused absence.

(C) Transfer to a public or nonpublic school.

61003. The department shall make the information submitted by all school districts pursuant to Sections 61001 and 61002 available to the public on the department’s Web site.

1 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
2 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
3 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
4 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
5 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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